



## TOTAL DOMINATION POLYNOMIALS OF SOME SPLITTING GRAPHS

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### Abstract

A hypergraph is an ordered pair  $H = (V, E)$ , where  $V$  is a finite nonempty set called vertices and  $E$  is a collection of subsets of  $V$ , called hyperedges or simply edges. A subset  $T$  of vertices in a hypergraph  $H$  is called a vertex cover if  $T$  has a nonempty intersection with every edge of  $H$ . The vertex covering number  $\tau(H)$  of  $H$  is the minimum size of a vertex cover in  $H$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}(H, i)$  be the family of vertex covering sets of  $H$  with cardinality  $i$  and let  $C(H, i)$  be the cardinality of  $\mathcal{C}(H, i)$ . The polynomial  $\sum_{i=\tau(H)}^{|V(H)|} C(H, i) x^i$  is

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defined as vertex cover polynomial of  $H$ . For a graph  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $H_G$  denotes the hypergraph with vertex set  $V$  and edge set  $\{N_G(x) | x \in V\}$ . In this paper, we prove that the total domination polynomial of a connected graph  $G$  is the vertex cover polynomial of  $H_G$ . Using this result, we determine total domination polynomials of splitting graphs of order  $k$  of paths and cycles. Moreover, we introduce the terminology of iterated splitting graph  $S^i(G)$  of a graph  $G$  and determine its total domination polynomials.

## 1. Introduction

All graphs considered in this paper are simple and connected unless otherwise stated. Notations and definitions not given here can be found in [1, 4, 8]. A *graph* is an ordered pair  $G = (V(G), E(G))$ , where  $V(G)$  is a finite nonempty set and  $E(G)$  is a collection of 2-point subsets of  $V$ . The sets  $V(G)$  and  $E(G)$  are the vertex set and edge set of  $G$ , respectively. The *open neighbourhood* of a vertex  $v \in V(G)$  is  $N_G(v) = \{u \in V | uv \in E(G)\}$ . If the graph  $G$  is clear from the context, then we write  $N(v)$  rather than  $N_G(v)$ . A *total dominating set*, abbreviated TD-set, of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  with no isolated vertex is a set  $S$  of vertices of  $G$  such that every vertex is adjacent to a vertex in  $S$ . If no proper subset of  $S$  is a TD-set of  $G$ , then  $S$  is a *minimal TD-set* of  $G$ . The *total domination number* of  $G$ , denoted by  $\gamma_t(G)$ , is the minimum cardinality of a TD-set of  $G$ . A TD-set of  $G$  of cardinality  $\gamma_t(G)$  is called a  $\gamma_t(G)$ -set. Let  $\mathcal{D}_t(G, i)$  be the family of total dominating sets of  $G$  with cardinality  $i$  and let  $d_t(G, i) = |\mathcal{D}_t(G, i)|$ . The polynomial

$\mathcal{D}_t(G, x) = \sum_{i=\gamma_t(G)}^{|V(G)|} d_t(G, i)x^i$  is defined as *total domination polynomial* of

$G$ . A *hypergraph*  $H = (V, E)$  is a finite nonempty set  $V = V(H)$  of elements called *vertices*, together with a finite multiset  $E = E(H)$  of subsets of  $V$ , called *hyperedges* or simply *edges*. The *order* and *size* of  $H$  are  $|V|$

and  $|E|$ , respectively. A  $k$ -edge in  $H$  is an edge of size  $k$ . A subset  $T$  of vertices in a hypergraph  $H$  is a *transversal* (also called *vertex cover*) if  $T$  has a nonempty intersection with every edge of  $H$ . The *transversal number*  $\tau(H)$  of  $H$  is the minimum size of a transversal in  $H$ . For further information on hypergraphs, refer [3]. Let  $\mathcal{C}(H, i)$  be the family of vertex covering sets of  $H$  with cardinality  $i$  and let  $C(H, i) = |\mathcal{C}(H, i)|$ . The polynomial  $C(H, x) = \sum_{i=\tau(H)}^{|V(H)|} C(H, i)x^i$  is defined as *vertex cover polynomial* of  $H$ . For a graph

$G = (V, E)$ , the  $ONH(G)$  or  $H_G$  is the *open neighbourhood hypergraph* of  $G$ ;  $H_G = (V, C)$  is the hypergraph with vertex set  $V(H_G) = V$  and with edge set  $E(H_G) = C = \{N_G(x) | x \in V\}$  consisting of the open neighbourhoods of vertices of  $V$  in  $G$ .

**Theorem 1.1** [7]. *The ONH of a connected bipartite graph consists of two components, while the ONH of a connected graph that is not bipartite is connected.*

**Theorem 1.2** [8]. *If  $G$  is a graph with no isolated vertex and  $H_G$  is the ONH of  $G$ , then  $\gamma_t(G) = \tau(H_G)$ .*

**Theorem 1.3** [9].  $D_t(C_n, x) = x[D_t(C_{n-1}, x) + D_t(C_{n-2}, x)]$ .

The corona  $G \circ K_1$  of a graph  $G$  is the graph obtained from  $G$  by adding a pendant edge to each vertex of  $G$ . The splitting graph of  $G$  is defined as, for each vertex  $v$  of  $G$ , take a new vertex  $v'$  and join  $v'$  to all vertices of  $G$  adjacent to  $v$ . The graph  $spl(G)$  thus obtained is called the *splitting graph* of  $G$ . The splitting graph of order  $k$  of a graph  $G$ , denoted by  $spl^k(G)$  is defined as for each vertex  $v$  of  $G$ , take  $k$  new vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k$  and join each of these vertices to all vertices of  $G$  adjacent to  $v$ . The iterated splitting graph  $S^i(G)$  of a graph  $G$  is defined as  $S^i(G) = S(S^{i-1}(G))$ , where  $S^1(G)$  denotes the splitting graph  $spl(G)$  of  $G$ .

## 2. Main Results

**Theorem 2.1.** *The total domination polynomial of a connected bipartite graph  $G$  is the product of the vertex cover polynomials of the two components of  $H_G$ , while the total domination polynomial of a connected graph that is not bipartite is the vertex cover polynomial of  $H_G$ .*

**Proof.** The proof follows immediately from the definitions of total dominating set of  $G$  and vertex cover polynomial of  $H_G$ .  $\square$

Using Theorem 2.1, we can easily prove Theorems 2.2 and 2.3 due to Chaluvvaraju and Chaitra [2].

**Theorem 2.2.**  $D_t(K_{m,n}, x) = [(1+x)^m - 1][(1+x)^n - 1]$ .

**Proof.** Let  $(X, Y)$  be the bipartition and  $H_G$  be the open neighbourhood hypergraph of  $K_{m,n}$ . Then  $E(H_G) = \{X, Y\}$  and the vertex cover polynomial of  $H_G$  is

$$\left[ \binom{m}{1}x + \binom{m}{2}x^2 + \cdots + \binom{m}{m}x^m \right] \left[ \binom{n}{1}x + \binom{n}{2}x^2 + \cdots + \binom{n}{n}x^n \right].$$

Thus the proof follows by Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $n$  vertices. Then*

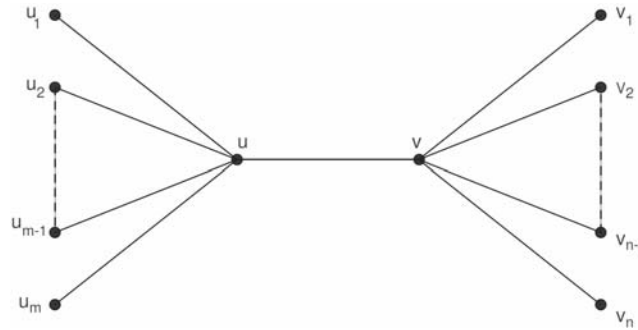
$$D_t(G \circ K_1, x) = x^n(1+x)^n.$$

**Proof.** Let  $V(G) = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$  and  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n$  be the new vertices of  $G \circ K_1$  such that  $N(a_i) = \{i\}$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ . So if  $S$  is a total dominating set of  $G \circ K_1$ , then  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\} \subseteq S$ . Therefore,

$$D_t(G \circ K_1, x) = x^n + \binom{n}{1}x^{n+1} + \binom{n}{2}x^{n+2} + \cdots + \binom{n}{n}x^{n+n} = x^n(1+x)^n.$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.4.** *If  $B_{m,n}$  is the bistar graph, then  $D_t(B_{m,n}, x) = x^2(1+x)^{m+n}$ .*



**Figure 1.** The graph  $B_{m,n}$ .

**Proof.** Let us label the vertices of  $B_{m,n}$  as shown in Figure 1. Since  $N(u) = \{v, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$ ,  $N(v) = \{u, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ ,  $N(u_i) = \{u\}$  and  $N(v_i) = \{v\}$ , a set  $S$  is a TD-set of  $B_{m,n}$  if and only if  $\{u, v\} \subseteq S$ . So the TD-polynomial is

$$\begin{aligned} D_t(B_{m,n}, x) &= x^2 + \binom{m+n}{1}x^3 + \binom{m+n}{2}x^4 + \dots + \binom{m+n}{m+n}x^{m+n} \\ &= x^2(1+x)^{m+n}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be graphs of order  $m$  and  $n$ , respectively. Then  $D_t(G \vee H, x) = [(1+x)^m - 1][(1+x)^n - 1] + D_t(G, x) + D_t(H, x)$ .*

**Proof.** If  $S \subseteq V(G) \cup V(H)$ , such that  $S \cap V(G) \neq \emptyset$  and  $S \cap V(H) \neq \emptyset$ , then  $S$  is a TD-set of  $G \vee H$ . Moreover, if  $S$  is a TD-set of  $G$  or  $H$ , then  $S$  is a TD-set of  $G \vee H$ . Therefore,  $D_t(G \vee H, x) = [(1+x)^m - 1][(1+x)^n - 1] + D_t(G, x) + D_t(H, x)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.6.**  $D_t(C_{2n}, x) = [\mathcal{C}(C_n, x)]^2$ .

**Proof.** The ONH of  $C_{2n}$  consists of two components isomorphic to  $C_n$ . Therefore, the proof follows from Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7.** *If  $G$  is bipartite, then  $spl^k(G)$  and  $S^k(G)$  are bipartite.*

**Proof.** Let  $(X, Y)$  be the bipartition of  $G$  and  $X', Y'$  be collections of new vertices of  $spl^k(G)$  corresponding to the vertices of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively. Then  $X \cup X'$  and  $Y \cup Y'$  are the partite sets of  $spl^k(G)$ . Similarly, we can show that  $S^k(G)$  is bipartite.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.8.**  $\mathcal{C}(C_n, x) = x[\mathcal{C}(C_{n-1}, x) + \mathcal{C}(C_{n-2}, x)]$ .

**Proof.** The proof follows from Theorem 1.3 and from the definition of vertex cover polynomial.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.9.** *If*

$$\mathcal{C}(C_n, x) = b_s x^s + b_{s+1} x^{s+1} + b_{s+2} x^{s+2} + \cdots + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + b_n x^n,$$

$$\text{then } \mathcal{C}(G_1, s+j) = b_s \binom{nk}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{nk}{j-1} + b_{s+2} \binom{nk}{j-2} + \cdots + b_{s+j}, \text{ where}$$

$$G_1 \text{ is a component of ONH of } spl^k(C_{2n}) \text{ and } \binom{n}{r} = 0 = b_r \text{ if } r > n.$$

**Proof.** Let  $X = \{1, 3, 5, \dots, 2n-1\}$  and  $Y = \{2, 4, 6, \dots, 2n\}$  be the bipartitions of  $C_{2n}$ . Let  $G_1$  be the component of  $ONH(spl^k(C_{2n}))$  corresponding to the partite set  $X \cup X'$ . For  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$ , let  $v_i$  denote the new vertex in  $spl^i(C_{2n})$ , corresponding to the vertex  $v$  in  $C_{2n}$ . Then  $N(1_i) = \{2\}$  and  $N(2n_i) = \{2n-1\}$  and for  $v$  in  $\{2, 3, 4, \dots, 2n-1\}$ ,  $N(v_i) = \{v-1, v+1\}$ . So if  $S$  is a vertex covering set of  $C_n$  with  $V(C_n) = \{2, 4, 6, \dots, 2n\}$ , then  $S$  is a vertex covering set of  $G_1$ . Also,  $V(spl^k(C_{2n}))$

consists of  $(k+1)2n$  vertices. So if  $\tau(C_n) = s$  and  $C_n$  has  $b_{s+j}$  vertex covering subsets of order  $s+j$ , then  $G_1$  has  $b_s \binom{nk}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{nk}{j-1} + b_{s+2} \binom{nk}{j-2} + \cdots + b_{s+j}$  vertex covering sets of order  $s+j$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.10.** *If  $G_1$  is a component of ONH of  $spl^k(C_{2n})$ , then*

$$D_t(spl^k(C_{2n}, x)) = [\mathcal{C}(G_1, x)]^2.$$

**Proof.** The proof follows from Theorems 2.1 and 2.9.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.11.** *If*

$$\mathcal{C}(C_n, x) = b_s x^s + b_{s+1} x^{s+1} + b_{s+2} x^{s+2} + \cdots + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + b_n x^n,$$

then  $\mathcal{C}(G_1, s+j) = b_s \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j-1} + b_{s+2} \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j-2} + \cdots + b_{s+j}$ , where  $G_1$  is a component of ONH of  $S^k(C_{2n})$ , where  $\binom{n}{r} = 0 = b_r$  if  $r > n$ .

**Proof.** Let  $X = \{1, 3, 5, \dots, 2n-1\}$  and  $Y = \{2, 4, 6, \dots, 2n\}$  be the bipartitions of  $C_{2n}$ . Let  $a'_1, a'_3, a'_5, \dots, a'_{2n-1}$  be the vertices of a component  $G_1$  of ONH of  $S^k(C_{2n})$  of degree 2. Let  $N(a'_1) = \{2n, 2\}$ ,  $N(a'_3) = \{2, 4\}$ ,  $N(a'_5) = \{4, 6\}$ , ...,  $N(a'_{2n-1}) = \{2n-2, 2n\}$ . If  $v \in V(G_1)$ , then there is a vertex  $a'_i$  such that  $N(a'_i) \subseteq N(v)$ . So if  $S$  is a vertex covering set of  $C_n$  with  $V(C_n) = \{2, 4, 6, \dots, 2n\}$ , then  $S$  is a vertex covering set of  $G_1$ . Also, if  $|V(G)| = n$ , then  $|V(S^k(G))| = 2^k n$ . So if  $\tau(C_n) = s$  and  $C_n$  has  $b_{s+j}$  vertex covering subsets of order  $s+j$ , then  $G_1$  has  $b_s \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j} +$

$b_{s+1}\binom{n(2^k-1)}{j-1} + b_{s+2}\binom{n(2^k-1)}{j-2} + \cdots + b_{s+j}$  vertex covering sets of order  $s+j$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.12.** *If  $G_1$  is a component of ONH of  $S^k(C_{2n})$ , then*

$$D_t(S^k(C_{2n}, x)) = [\mathcal{C}(G_1, x)]^2.$$

**Proof.** The proof follows from Theorems 2.1 and 2.11.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.13.** *If  $n$  is odd and  $D_t(C_n, x) = b_s x^s + b_{s+1} x^{s+1} + b_{s+2} x^{s+2} + \cdots + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + b_n x^n$ , then  $d_t(\text{spl}^k(C_n), s+j) = b_s \binom{nk}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{nk}{j-1} + b_{s+2} \binom{nk}{j-2} + \cdots + b_{s+j}$  and  $\binom{n}{r} = 0 = b_r$  if  $r > n$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $n$  is odd,  $\text{ONH}(C_n)$  is isomorphic to  $C_n$  and  $\mathcal{C}(C_n, x) = D_t(C_n, x)$ . The rest of the proof is exactly similar to Theorem 2.9.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.14.** *If  $n$  is odd and  $D_t(C_n, x) = b_s x^s + b_{s+1} x^{s+1} + b_{s+2} x^{s+2} + \cdots + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + b_n x^n$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} d_t(S^k(C_n), s+j) &= b_s \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j-1} \\ &\quad + b_{s+2} \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j-2} + \cdots + b_{s+j} \end{aligned}$$

and  $\binom{n}{r} = 0 = b_r$  if  $r > n$ .

**Proof.** Since  $n$  is odd,  $\text{ONH}(C_n)$  is isomorphic to  $C_n$  and  $\mathcal{C}(C_n, x) = D_t(C_n, x)$ . The rest of the proof is exactly similar to Theorem 2.11.  $\square$



Next, we determine the total domination polynomials of  $spl^k(P_n)$  and  $S^k(P_n)$ .

Let  $P'_n$  be the graph shown in Figure 2.

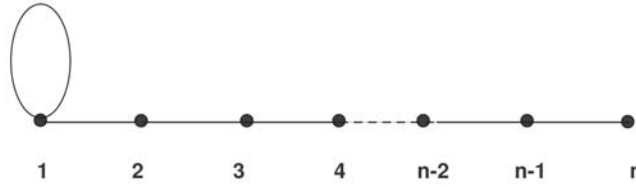


Figure 2. The graph  $P'_n$ .

**Theorem 2.15.**  $C(P'_n, i+1) = C(P'_{n-1}, i) + C(P'_{n-2}, i)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $C(P'_{n-1}, i) = A_{n-1} \cup A$ , where  $A_{n-1} = \{S \mid S \in C(P'_{n-1}, i) \text{ and } n-1 \in S\}$  and  $A = C(P'_{n-1}, i) \setminus A_{n-1}$ . Then  $A \subseteq C(P'_{n-2}, i)$ . Also, let  $B = C(P'_{n-2}, i) \setminus A$ . If  $S \in A_{n-1}$ , then  $S \cup \{n\} \in C(P'_n, i+1)$ . If  $S \in A$ , then  $S \cup \{n-1\}$  and  $S \cup \{n\} \in C(P'_n, i+1)$ . If  $S \in B$ , then  $S \cup \{n-1\} \in C(P'_n, i+1)$ .

Conversely, let  $S \in C(P'_n, i+1)$ . Then either  $n-1 \in S$  or  $n \in S$  or both.

**Case 1.**  $n-1 \in S$  and  $n \notin S$ . In this case,  $S \setminus \{n-1\} \in A \cup B$ .

**Case 2.**  $n-1 \notin S$  and  $n \in S$ . In this case,  $S \setminus \{n\} \in A$ .

**Case 3.**  $n-1 \in S$  and  $n \in S$ . In this case,  $S \setminus \{n\} \in A_{n-1}$ . Therefore,

$$C(P'_n, i+1) = |A_{n-1}| + 2|A| + |B| = C(P'_{n-1}, i) + C(P'_{n-2}, i). \quad \square$$

**Theorem 2.16.**  $C(P'_n, x) = x[C(P'_{n-1}, x) + C(P'_{n-2}, x)]$ , with initial values  $C(P'_2, x) = x + x^2$ ,  $C(P'_3, x) = 2x^2 + x^3$ .

**Proof.** The proof follows immediately from Theorem 2.15.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.17.**  $D_t(P_{2n}, x) = [\mathcal{C}(P'_n, x)]^2$ .

**Proof.** The open neighbourhood hypergraph of  $P_{2n}$  consists of two components isomorphic to  $P'_n$ . Then, by Theorem 2.1,  $D_t(P_{2n}, x) = [\mathcal{C}(P'_n, x)]^2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.18.** If  $\mathcal{C}(P'_n, x) = b_s x^s + b_{s+1} x^{s+1} + b_{s+2} x^{s+2} + \dots + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + b_n x^n$ , then

$$C(G_1, s + j) = b_s \binom{nk}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{nk}{j-1} + b_{s+2} \binom{nk}{j-2} + \dots + b_{s+j},$$

where  $G_1$  is a component of ONH of  $spl^k(P_{2n})$  and  $\binom{n}{r} = 0 = b_r$  if  $r > n$ .

**Proof.** For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , let  $v_i$  be the new vertex corresponding to the vertex in  $spl^i(P_{2n})$ . Then for all  $i$ ,  $N_{spl^i(P_{2n})} = N_{P_{2n}}(v)$ . If  $S$  is a vertex covering subset of  $P'_n$ , then  $S$  is a vertex covering subset of  $G_1$ . So, if  $\mathcal{C}(P'_n, x) = b_s x^s + b_{s+1} x^{s+1} + b_{s+2} x^{s+2} + \dots + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + b_n x^n$ , then

$$C(G_1, s + j) = b_s \binom{nk}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{nk}{j-1} + b_{s+2} \binom{nk}{j-2} + \dots + b_{s+j}.$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.19.** If  $G_1$  is a component of ONH of  $spl^k(P_{2n})$ , then

$$D_t(spl^k(P_{2n}, x)) = [\mathcal{C}(G_1, x)]^2.$$

**Proof.** The proof follows immediately from Theorems 2.1 and 2.18.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.20.** *If the vertex cover polynomial of  $P'_n$  is  $\mathcal{C}(P'_n, x) = b_s x^s + b_{s+1} x^{s+1} + b_{s+2} x^{s+2} + \cdots + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + b_n x^n$  and if  $G_1$  is a component of  $ONH(S^k(P_{2n}))$ , then  $C(G_1, s+j) = b_s \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j-1} + b_{s+2} \binom{n(2^k-1)}{j-2} + \cdots + b_{s+j}$  and  $\binom{n}{r} = 0 = b_r$  if  $r > n$ .*

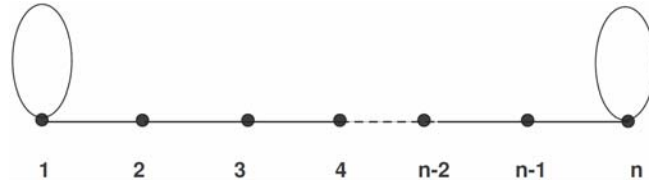
**Proof.** Observe that  $|V(S^k(P_{2n}))| = 2^{k+1}n$ ,  $|V(G_1)| = 2^k n$  and  $|V(P'_n)| = n$ . The remaining part can be proved as in Theorem 2.18.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.21.** *If  $G_1$  is a component of  $ONH(S^k(P_{2n}))$ , then*

$$D_t(S^k(P_{2n}, x)) = [\mathcal{C}(G_1, x)]^2.$$

**Proof.** The proof is obvious.  $\square$

Let  $P''_n$  be the graph shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3.**  $P''_n$ .

**Theorem 2.22.**  $\mathcal{C}(P''_n, x) = x[\mathcal{C}(P''_{n-1}, x) + \mathcal{C}(P''_{n-2}, x)]$  with initial values  $\mathcal{C}(P''_2, x) = x^2$  and  $\mathcal{C}(P''_3, x) = x^2 + x^3$ .

**Proof.** Let  $S \in \mathcal{C}(P''_{n-2}, i)$ . Then  $S \cup \{n\} \in \mathcal{C}(P''_n, i+1)$ . If  $S \in \mathcal{C}(P''_{n-1}, i)$ , then  $S \cup \{n\} \in \mathcal{C}(P''_n, i+1)$ . Conversely, if  $S \in \mathcal{C}(P''_n, i+1)$ , then either  $S \in \mathcal{C}(P''_{n-1}, i)$  or  $S \in \mathcal{C}(P''_{n-2}, i)$ . Hence,  $\mathcal{C}(P''_n, i+1) = \mathcal{C}(P''_{n-1}, i) + \mathcal{C}(P''_{n-2}, i)$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{C}(P''_n, x) = x[\mathcal{C}(P''_{n-1}, x) + \mathcal{C}(P''_{n-2}, x)]$ .  $\square$

**Observation 2.23.**  $\mathcal{C}(P_n + 2, x) = x[\mathcal{C}(P_{n+1}, x) + \mathcal{C}(P_n, x)]$  with initial values  $\mathcal{C}(P_2, x) = 2x + x^2$  and  $\mathcal{C}(P_3, x) = x + 3x^2 + x^3$ .

**Theorem 2.24.**  $D_t(P_{2n+1}, x) = [\mathcal{C}(P_n'', x)][\mathcal{C}(P_{n+1}, x)]$ .

**Proof.** Let  $X = \{1, 3, 5, \dots, 2n-1\}$  and  $Y = \{2, 4, 6, \dots, 2n\}$  be the partite sets of  $P_{2n+1}$ . Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be the components of  $ONH(P_{2n+1})$  corresponding to the open neighbourhoods of vertices in  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively. Then  $G_1$  is isomorphic to  $P_n''$  and  $G_2$  is isomorphic to  $P_{2n+1}$ . Therefore, the result follows from Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.25.** Let  $\mathcal{C}(P_n', x) = b_s x^s + b_{s+1} x^{s+1} + b_{s+2} x^{s+2} + \dots + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + b_n x^n$  and  $\mathcal{C}(P_{n+1}, x) = c_l x^l + c_{l+1} x^{l+1} + c_{l+2} x^{l+2} + \dots + c_n x^n + c_{n+1} x^{n+1}$ . If  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are the components of  $ONH(spl^k(P_{2n+1}))$ , then the coefficients of  $x^{s+j}$  in  $\mathcal{C}(G_1, x)$  and  $\mathcal{C}(G_2, x)$  are  $\mathcal{C}(G_1, s+j) = b_s \binom{nk}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{nk}{j-1} + b_{s+2} \binom{nk}{j-2} + \dots + b_{s+j}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}(G_2, s+j) = c_l \binom{(n+1)k}{j} + b_{s+1} \binom{(n+1)k}{j-1} + b_{s+2} \binom{(n+1)k}{j-2} + \dots + c_{l+j}$ , where  $\binom{n}{r} = b_r = 0$  if  $r > n$  and  $c_r = 0$  if  $r > n+1$ .

**Proof.** For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , let  $v_i$  be the new vertex corresponding to the vertex  $v$  in  $spl^k(P_{2n+1})$  and  $X = \{1_i, 3_i, \dots, (2n+1)_i\}$  and  $Y = \{2_i, 4_i, \dots, (2n)_i\}$  be the partite sets. Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be the components of  $ONH(spl^k(P_{2n+1}))$  corresponding to  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively. Then as in the previous results, we can prove the result immediately.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.26.** If  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are the components of  $ONH(spl^k(P_{2n+1}))$ , then

$$D_t(spl^k(P_{2n+1}, x)) = \mathcal{C}(G_1, x) \mathcal{C}(G_2, x).$$

**Proof.** The proof is obvious.  $\square$

**Observation 2.27.** Adopting the procedure in Theorem 2.25, we can easily derive the total domination polynomial of  $S^k(P_{2n+1})$  also.

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